



Press Release

19 July 2016

For immediate release

## **In search of the mountain Pokémon**

### **Safety experts warn gamers to stay safe if searching in wild land**

Pokémon Go fans have been warned to make sure they don't just go, but also come back – safely.

The craze for collecting virtual Pokémon characters via a phone app has delighted youngsters (and the young at heart) and mystified everyone else, as collectors track down the characters through the GPS feature in their phones.

But mountain safety experts have reminded fans that – though there are undoubted health benefits from getting outdoors and active – they need to be aware of where they are and how to get home again.

After discovering – purely in the course of research – that Pokémon Go characters can be found aplenty even in the Cairngorm mountains, Heather Morning, Mountain Safety Adviser with the Mountaineering Council of Scotland, said: “From a mountain safety perspective there are clearly a few issues here. It is not difficult to imagine a situation where a Pokémon Go gamer finds themselves lost and unable to find their way back to safety. It would be equally easy to see how someone could put themselves into danger focusing on their game rather than focusing on the ground in front of them.”

She added: “Another aspect of Pokémon Go is the game’s ability to eat your battery life. All the biggest battery-eating culprits are in action, and your screen is the biggest battery hog. On top of that, you will be using your camera, so that you can see the Pokémon in the real world. And to top it all off, the ever hungry GPS is a must to find the Pokémon in the first place. A classic combo for a dead phone very quickly.

“If your phone is your only tool for navigating your way out of wherever you have found yourself, then you are in for trouble.”

Having spent a day wandering the hills with one eye on the phone, Heather admitted: “It’s a fun game, and it does encourage folk to get out and about and enjoy the great outdoors with all the health benefits that brings.

“However, gamers need to be aware if they are playing in an area that they are not familiar with – particularly in the mountains – that they should very much stay ‘switched on’ to where they are and how to get themselves home safely.”

## **Ends**

### **Notes for editors**

Images for this press release are downloadable here:

[http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/IMG\\_2016-07-19-10495294.png](http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/IMG_2016-07-19-10495294.png)

[http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/IMG\\_2016-07-19-11003871.png](http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/IMG_2016-07-19-11003871.png)

[http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/IMG\\_2016-07-19-11103465.png](http://www.mcofs.org.uk/assets/media/IMG_2016-07-19-11103465.png)

All show Heather Morning ‘with’ Pokémon characters found in the Cairngorms.

### **Further information**

Contact Neil Reid, Communications Officer, on 01738 493941 or 07788871803 or [neil@mcofs.org.uk](mailto:neil@mcofs.org.uk)

### **About the MCoFS**

- The MCoFS acts to represent, support and promote Scottish mountaineering.
- The MCoFS is the only recognised representative organisation for hill walkers, climbers and ski-tourers who live in Scotland or who enjoy Scotland’s mountains.
- The MCoFS is a membership organisation with over 12,000 members representing hill walkers, climbers and mountaineers.
- The MCoFS also acts for 75,000 members of the BMC or British Mountaineering Council on matters related to Landscape and Access in Scotland.
- MCoFS landscape and access work is supported financially by the Scottish Mountaineering Trust and the BMC
- The MCoFS is a not for profit company limited by guarantee and incorporated in Scotland. Company number SC322717.
- The Mountaineering Council of Scotland, The Old Granary, West Mill Street, Perth PH1 5QP